

**TOP SECRET**

14 June 1963

**NRO REVIEW COMPLETED**

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Deputy Secretary of Defense**

**SUBJECT : Covert Satellite**

**REFERENCE : Memorandum for DDNRO from Deputy Secretary of Defense, same subject, dated 1 June 1963**

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1. Your referenced memorandum indicated that I had stated that the 5412 Group had assigned to CIA the responsibility for the development of a covert satellite. I believe your source of this information must have been misinformed for I am sure I have at no time stated that the 5412 Group made this assignment. I know perfectly well that the 5412 Group is not the responsible organization to make such an assignment, and therefore, I am certain that I have been misquoted.

2. In connection with our discussions on the FY '64 NRO budget, I was informed by Mr. McCone that you had reached a decision to place this item in the CIA budget. Since that time the CIA has been conducting preliminary studies and discussions with a few contractors on a no expense, but highly secure, basis with a view toward initiating work in this area in the near future. I believe, therefore, that it would be very timely for a joint meeting between DOD, CIA and the NRO in order to make a decision on the assignment of responsibility in this area. Since the major objective of such a program is a truly covert activity, I believe that any discussions of the subject should be limited to a strictly EYES ONLY basis to individuals who have a contribution to make and should not be staffed in a normal fashion.

By: **Herbert Scoville, Jr.**

**HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.**  
Deputy Director  
National Reconnaissance Office

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cc: DNRO

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**TOP SECRET**

25X1A

0145-63  
Page 2

25X1A

25X1A

ODDR:HScoville:  (14 June 1963)

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- # 4 - DDCI
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